



# Wisconsin Wildlife Damage

February A Newsletter for Wildlife Damage Program Cooperators

2004

## Damage Claims due March 1<sup>st</sup>!

All Wildlife Damage Claims are due March 1<sup>st</sup>. Don't forget to include a 'Harvest Objective Exemption' form if an enrollee doesn't meet their harvest objective and are granted an exemption.

## Deer donation 2003 results

One year after the discovery of CWD in Wisconsin, the venison donation program continues to improve. As usual everyone's hard work made the 2003 venison donation program a success. 117 processors from 53 counties participated in the program. Hunters donated 6,771 deer or approximately 305,000 lb. of ground venison. Congratulations for making 2003 another successful year for the venison donation program.

## Deer donation 2004???

We do not know whether we will be able to fund the venison donation program in 2004. We will not be able to make this decision until we complete all year end reimbursements to counties, and pay all claims for 2003. Before funds can be allocated to the venison donation program, the WDACP must guarantee that there is adequate funding available to cover county WDACP administration, abatement and claims. We should be able to make this decision in late May to early June.

## Voluntary donations to venison processing

Beginning in 2002, each person purchasing a hunting license will be asked if they would like to donate \$1 or more to the venison donation program. In 2003, hunters donated \$18,935.72.

## Issuance of shooting permits and carcass tags

Attached is the formula that wildlife management personnel can use to calculate a **MINIMUM** harvest objective. The formula will provide a consistent starting point for determining harvest objectives, while enabling wildlife management personnel the flexibility to adjust harvest objects to address damage potential and other site-specific concerns. Carcass tags should be distributed at 1.5 times the harvest objective.

Additionally, when issuing a deer damage shooting permit, please send a copy to the wildlife damage program in Madison.

## Effective dates of the agricultural deer damage shooting permits

According to s. NR 12.16(4), EFFECTIVE DATES. Authorization to kill deer commences the date of permit receipt by the permittee and continues through the open season for the appropriate zone described ins. NR 10.01 (3)(e) and (em).

## Wisconsin Administrative Code changes

There are changes to Wisconsin's Administrative Code. The Wildlife Damage subchapter of NR 19 (ss. NR 19.75 to NR 19.84) have been moved to Subchapter II of NR 12 (ss. NR 12.30 to NR 41) to accommodate the new Wildlife Rehabilitation rules.

## Legislative hearings concerning the WDACP

The Assembly Committee on Natural Resources will be holding a public meeting on Thursday, February 12, 2004 at 10:00 am in room 300 Northeast of the State Capital Building. One bill the committee will be discussing is AB 566, which pertains to wildlife abatement assistance. The bill will repeal ss. 29-889(7m)(am) and 29.889 (7m)(b) 2,; and amends ss. 29.889(7m(a) and 29.889 (7m)(b) 3.of the statutes.

This bill requires a person who receives any wildlife damage claim payment to open the land involved in the wildlife damage to hunters. However, if a person who receives only wildlife abatement assistance and **no** damage claim payment, they are not required to open the property involved in the wildlife damage to hunting.

### Contact information

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### WDACP website:

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wildlife/damage>

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## **Guidelines for implementing the WM40 rule**

- 1) If appraised deer damage is >\$1000 previous year, regardless if the farmer has meet the harvest objective.
  - a) The farmer should be automatically issued a shooting permit by 15 February of the current year. The farmer is required to harvest 80% of the harvest objective by 15 September, to maintain claim eligibility. The farmer can enroll in the WDACP at the time of applying for the shooting permit. If the farmer chooses not to enroll in the WDACP when applying for a shooting permit, the farmer is required to notify the county within 14 days of damage first occurring and enroll in the WDACP according to s. 29.889(6)(c) stats. to be eligible for claim reimbursement.
- 2) If appraised deer damage is <\$1000 the previous year.
  - a) The farmer will follow previous WDACP rules. The farmer is required to notify the county within 14 days of damage first occurrence and enroll in the WDACP to be eligible for claims. Farmers will be required to harvest 50% of the harvest objective within the first 45 days and harvest 80% by the end of the deer hunting season.

Farmers not enrolled in the WDACP in the previous year or new to the program will follow previous WDACP rules. The farmer is required to notify the county within 14 days of damage first occurrence and enroll in the WDACP to be eligible for claims. Farmers will be required to harvest 50% of the harvest objective within the first 45 days and harvest 80% by the end of the deer hunting season.

S. 12.37(4)(a)5 Admin. Code, requires automatic enrollment for abatement assistance if the farmer's previous year's deer damage claim is appraised in excess of \$1000. Farmers should be encouraged to enroll in the WDACP when they are automatically issued a shooting permit. Farmers may elect not to enroll in the WDACP at the time they are issued a shooting permit. However, farmers are still required to notify the county within 14 days of damage first occurring and enroll in the WDACP according to s. 29.889(6)(c) stats.

Permits issued under s. 12.37 (4)(a)5 Admin. Code., should be issued on all owned and/or leased land the farmer has hunting access control. Some farmers do not have signed lease agreements or hunting access control by 15 February. In these situations, the farmers should apply for a shooting permit by 15 February for land with hunting access control. When the farmer signs a lease agreement or gains hunting access control, the County Damage Specialist and Wildlife Biologist should amended the original shooting permit and harvest objective. Farmers are still required to notify the county within 14 days of damage first occurrence and enroll in the WDACP to be eligible for claims on these properties. Farmers will still be required to harvest 80% of the harvest objective by 15 September.

## Agricultural Deer Damage Shooting Permit and Carcass Tag Distribution Issuance Guidelines

- The following formula will be used to generate a MINIMUM harvest objective:

$$\frac{\text{Farmers' huntable acres}}{640 \text{ acres}} \times \frac{\text{rolling 3-year average total antlerless harvest}}{\text{Sq. Mi. deer range of unit}} \times 2 = \text{Minimum Harvest Objective}$$

I.e. Farmer Joe has 200 acres of huntable land (.31 mi. sq.) in DMU 123 (321 mi. sq. of deer range). The 3-year average total antlerless harvest was 3328 deer (10.4 antlerless deer/mi. sq.). The minimum harvest objective would be: .31 X 10.4 X 2 = 6.4, or 6 antlerless deer.

- The minimum harvest objective can be adjusted upward at the discretion of wildlife management personnel after consultation with the permittee and the County Damage Specialist or their agents.
- The minimum harvest objective for any permittee will be 5 antlerless deer.
- Farmers will still be able to obtain exemptions to the harvest objective through normal program exemptions found in s. NR 12.16 (2)(b), admin.
- Carcass tags will be distributed at 1.5 times the harvest objective.
- The farmer will be eligible to receive additional tags once the harvest objective is met.